(c) by when the Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2008 to provide for (i) enhancing Medical Bonus from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 1,000/- if no pre-natal confinement and post-natal care is provided by the employer free of charge; and (ii) Granting powers to the Central Government to revise Medical Bonus before three years subject to a maximum of Rs. 20,000/- has been passed by the Parliament. The Bill has also received the assent of the President on 1st April, 2008. The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2008 (No. 15 of 2008) has been published in the Gazette of India on 2nd April, 2008.

Rescheduling the present rates paid to registered under NREGS

2606. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning rescheduling of the present rates paid to the workers registered NREGS at various States;

(b) whether Comptroller and Auditor general has made any suggestions or recommendations in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to revise the present norms for taking the works defined under NREGA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) In accordance with Section 6(2) of the NREG Act, 2005, until such time a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State Government under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area. Central Government has so far not fixed wage rate under NREGA in respect of any of the States. Wages are, therefore, paid to the NREGA workers as per the rates fixed by the concerned State Government.

(b) The draft report of Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) on the performance audit of the implementation of NREGA is selected districts submitted to the Ministry on 17.12.2007 did not make suggestion or recommendation for re-scheduling of the present rates paid to the NREGA workers.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Allocation under SGRY to Andhra Pradesh

2607. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to Andhra Pradesh under the Sampoorna Grammen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY);

(b) the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether this allocation is according to the average national allocation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?